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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#16/ AF/3724
12/16/02
Hart

In re the Application of: **NAKAJIMA, Akio**

Group Art Unit: 3724

Serial No.: 09/400,833

Examiner: **FLORES SANCHEZ, Omar**

Filed: **September 21, 1999**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 3858

For: **WORKPIECE-TRANSFER DEVICE**

RECEIVED 1/16/03
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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -

GROUP ART UNIT 3724

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER

December 11, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **September 19, 2002**, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1, as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) A workpiece-transfer device for loading a material workpiece in a workpiece-machining device and unloading a machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, characterized in that the workpiece-transfer device includes a movement means with a rectangular coordinate system for moving a traveling body in a first horizontal direction along the direction in which the workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device stand, said workpiece-machining device and said workpiece-storage device being in a line along said first direction with said workpiece-transfer device located therebetween, as well as